

**REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action dated November 3, 2005. Claims 1-20 are pending.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-5 and 9-12. Applicant also notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 6-8 and 13-20 contain allowable subject matter. No art rejections have been made.

The drawings stand objected to in section 1 of the Office Action. The Office Action requests that Figs. 15-17 be labeled "prior art." However, this was already done. In the filing of August 5, 2004, Figs. 15-17 were labeled "prior art." Thus, it is respectfully requested that this drawing objection be withdrawn.

Claim 8 stands objected to in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. Claim 8 has been amended to overcome this formality objection.

Claims 6-8 and 13-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph. These claims have been amended herein to address and overcome any potential issue in this regard. Claims 6-8 and 13-20, for example, have been amended to address and overcome the Section 112 rejections.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the metes and bounds of claim 8 are clear and definite. Claim 8 is not attempting to claim a range of numbers. Instead, claim 8 calls for a way of determining the number of through electrodes. For instance, claim 8 is clear in that the number of through electrodes is determined according to a magnitude of an electric current. There is nothing unclear about this statement in the claim.

Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that the metes and bounds of claims 13-20 are clear and definite. Claims 13-20 are not attempting to claim a range of numbers. Instead, claims

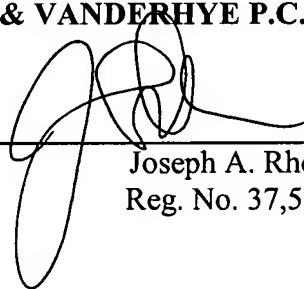
13-20 relate to the concept of increasing. In particular, claims 13-16 as amended clearly relate to increasing the number of through electrodes as an interconnect line length is increased. Also, claims 17-20 as amended make clear that the first and second number of the through electrodes is increased "in proportion" to interconnect line length. Thus, claims 13-20 as amended are clear and definite.

It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Joseph A. Rhoa  
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj  
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100